

1. The amendment submitted by Applicant on April 26, 2007 has been received and entered.

2. Claims 1-6 and 19-20 have been canceled.

Claims 7-11 and 13-18 are allowed.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Jack Stern on May 31, 2007.

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claim 7, line 8, after the words "the encoder", the words --, wherein the decoder has a function to detect an error in the data and correct the error in the data-- have been inserted.

Claim 12 has been canceled.

*after the words*

*6-26-07*  
In claim 13, line 6, <sup>^</sup> "the decoder", the words --, wherein the decoder has a function to detect an error in the data and correct the error in the data-- have been inserted.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art to the present invention is Ooishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,011,735). Ooishi discloses a memory device having an encoder coupled between a row (column) latch and a decoder. Ooishi fails to show or suggest the limitation of the latch circuit which latches data read from a non-volatile memory element, a control